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*Gregory F. Ahrens*  
Gregory F. Ahrens

Reg. No. 32,957

DATE

3/23/99

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MAR 31 1999  
Group 3700/3

Serial No.: 09/156,276 PATENT  
Filed: September 17, 1998  
Group Art Unit: 3734  
Examiner:  
Applicant: Rohit C. L. Sachdeva et al.  
Title: MEDICAL INSTRUMENT WITH SLOTTED MEMORY METAL TUBE

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

March 23, 1999

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed prior to examination on the merits of the above-referenced continuation application and it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered.

Please amend the application as follows:

#### IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, in the "RELATED APPLICATION" section, please delete the entire paragraph and replace it with the following:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(4), this application is a continuation of, claims the benefit of and priority to prior application Serial No. 08/804,018, filed February 21, 1997, <sup>NOW</sup>

U.S. PATENT No. 5,885,258,